

Iran's 'deal' with Iraq to benefit its economy

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Iran's reported food-for-oil deal with its old adversary Iraq could allow Tehran to boost its oil exports and earn nearly \$2 billion a year at current prices, according to oil experts.

That would be a bonus for cash-strapped Iran, which has already gained politically from the Gulf crisis.

A well-informed source in Tehran said Tuesday that Iran had agreed to allow "humanitarian shipments" of food and medicine into Iraq, despite U.N. sanctions imposed following Iraq's invasion of Kuwait on Aug. 2.

He said that Iraq to return agreed to give Iran 200,000 barrels of refined oil a day free and pay an undisclosed amount of money.

The source said the deal was struck during a visit Sunday by Iraq's Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz.

He said Iraq offered to pay in oil for essentials Tehran allowed across the border. He said Iran refused to accept full payment in oil, but agreed to take up to

200,000 barrels a day of refined products.

Aziz, the first senior Iraqi official to visit Iran in 15 years, was accompanied by Oil Minister Isam Abdul Rahim Chalabi.

The Tehran Times, a daily newspaper close to Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani's government, denied that Iran would take Iraqi oil.

It quoted an unidentified "informed source" in Tehran as saying the government had not decided whether to allow shipments into Iraq.

U.S. State Department officials said they believe Tehran will abide by the sanctions, as it has said it would.

The Tehran Times quoted its source as saying that if Iran decided to allow shipments into Iraq, "it is only out of humanitarian considerations, as we believe innocent Iraqi people are not responsible for their government's move."

Pierre Terzian, editor of the Paris-based newsletter Petros, said in a telephone interview that Iran "probably could supply enough food to the right

people and places to keep the Iraqi economy going."

Iran's oil refineries, damaged during the 1980-88 war with Iraq, are producing about 600,000 barrels of fuel and other products a day.

Domestic demand is about 750,000 barrels, so the Iranians have been importing 150,000 barrels a day, paid for in scarce foreign currency.

By bringing in refined oil from Iraq, oil experts say Tehran would be able to halt costly imports of refined products and sell an equivalent amount of its own crude on top of its current exports.

Peter Bogin, associate director for oil markets at Cambridge Energy Research Associates in Paris, said that at \$25 a barrel, 200,000 barrels of oil could bring in \$5 million a day for Iran. Iran is currently pumping about 3.1 million barrels of crude oil a day, its maximum capacity.

U.S. view

The United States said Thursday there was no evidence Iran

was violating U.N. trade sanctions against Iraq and that an anti-American speech by its spiritual leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei seemed based on a misunderstanding.

State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said Wednesday that the fight against U.S. policies in the Gulf counted as holy war based on misinterpretation of Washington's stated long-term intentions.

"The Iranian position appears to be based on a misunderstanding of what we mean by regional security structures and arrangements," Boucher said.

Iran was upset by remarks last week by Secretary of State James Baker that the United States might have to leave forces in the Gulf after the end of the crisis as part of a new regional security structure.

"The U.S. was no intention of imposing itself, but rather, of finding mutually acceptable arrangements which would help guarantee peace and prosperity," Boucher said.

India loads ship with food for Gulf

NEW DELHI (R) — An Indian ship loaded with up to 10,000 tonnes of food will sail to the Gulf within the next two days after Delhi finally won United Nations permission to feed its people trapped in Iraq and Kuwait.

Officials said Friday the cargo ship Vishwa Siddhi would bring back some of the estimated 125,000 Indians still trapped in Kuwait.

"It will sail tomorrow or the day after, we're not sure which yet, and will bring back refugees," a senior official told Reuters.

The official, who asked not to be identified, said the delay of more than one week in winning U.N. Security Council permission to send the ship had forced a change in plans.

The passenger ship Akbar had been loaded with food at the southern port of Cochin, ready to sail at two hours notice.

But the official said the Akbar was needed for domestic work and had been unloaded and sent back to its normal base at Bombay.

"We couldn't have it standing by for a long time in the hope that the U.N. would give us permission," he said.

A senior shipping official in Bombay said the 12,972 tonne Vishwa Siddhi was being loaded at Cochin Friday, but was unsuitable for bringing back people.

India has fought long and hard for permission to send the ship in the face of opposition from the United States and Britain, both permanent members of the Security Council.

Foreign Minister Inder Kumar Gujral told parliament last Friday India had been told that if it tried to send a ship carrying food without U.N. permission, the vessel would be stopped.

India sees ships as the easiest way to get its people out of Kuwait and Iraq, but ran into serious problems when Iraq refused to accept them — or planes to Baghdad and the southern

Iraqi port of Basra — unless they brought food. Iraq denies the charge.

Washington said food shortages in Kuwait were not of the magnitude to require humanitarian shipments of food allowed under stringent U.N. sanctions against Iraq for its Aug. 2 takeover of Kuwait.

That attitude caused some bitter official comments from Delhi, which then made a major effort to win U.N. permission, finally granted late Thursday as an exception to the sanctions.

A senior Indian official said the idea was to send the Indian ship and see what Iraq would do.

Another said Delhi had sent a formal protest to Baghdad over Iraq's food condition for flights and ships to evacuate Indians directly from Iraq and Kuwait.

He said it accused Baghdad of reneging on assurances of complete cooperation in evacuating Indians. The assurances were given to Gujral during a visit to the Iraqi capital, which included talks with President Saddam Hussein, shortly after the invasion.

There were 172,000 Indians in Kuwait and about 10,000 in Iraq when Baghdad's army swept into Kuwait.

In the past week, India has stepped up its flights from Amman and Dubai and is now bringing home close to 4,000 Indians a day, officials said.

WFP food aid

The World Food Programme said Friday it will provide an additional \$2.4 million in food aid to refugees from Kuwait and Iraq.

A total of 5,372 tons of rice, wheat flour and edible oil will be delivered to Jordan to help feed 120,000 people for 90 days and build up a 30-day buffer stock, the Rome-based agency said in a statement.

The aid was approved in response to urgent appeals from the government of Jordan.

'Mossad deceived CIA and U.S. military'

NEW YORK (R) — The Israeli intelligence agency Mossad knew where American hostages in Lebanon were being held and by whom, but refused to tell the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), according to a new book by one of its former agents.

"By Way of Deception," by Victor Ostrovsky, also says Mossad failed to warn the U.S. military about a 1983 suicide bombing in Lebanon that killed 241 U.S. marines.

Ostrovsky told of meetings between CIA and Mossad representatives in which the Israeli agency tried to "blame the PLO (Palestine Liberation Organisation) for the kidnappings, even with the knowledge that many of them, including Buckley's, had no PLO connection."

Buckley was held and tortured for 18 months before being killed in 1985. The pro-Iranian Islamic Jihad (Holy War) group claimed responsibility.

When Israeli bombers destroyed the Iraqi nuclear reactor, it was the culmination of a three-year Mossad operation to lure an unhappy married Iraqi scientist to map out the plant, Ostrovsky said.

It also tried to lure the scientist's boss into giving them information, he wrote.

The boss, Egyptian-born physicist Yehia Al Meshad, "was heavily into kinky sex. S and M (sadomasochism) actually, and a hooker whose name was Marie Express had been entertaining him regularly," Ostrovsky wrote.

When the attempt to get Meshad on their side failed, Mossad killed him, Ostrovsky wrote. Israel, in a statement released Thursday, said it would not "credit any of the stories raised in the book by addressing them."

Ostrovsky has gone into hiding, fearing his former colleagues may try to kill him, his co-author Claire Hoy told Reuters.

"You know one man's traitor is another man's patriot. He sees himself as a patriot of Israel. He loves Israel. He thinks they have gone off their proper course," Hoy said.

Israeli ministers to meet Gorbachev

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel's finance and science ministers left Friday for Moscow where they will become the first cabinet members from the Jewish state to meet Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, a treasury official said.

Finance Minister Yitzhak Modai and Science Minister Yuval Neeman flew to Vienna and were to board a connecting flight to Moscow. The secretly planned trip is the latest indication of improving relations between the Soviet Union and Israel.

"The ministers will hold talks with senior Soviet officials and will meet Gorbachev either today or Saturday night," finance ministry spokesman Eli Yosef told Reuters. He said Modai and Neeman would return Sunday. No Israeli cabinet minister has

met a Soviet leader since Moscow and all of its Communist allies except Romania severed diplomatic relations with Israel over the 1967 Middle East war.

Apart from the Soviet Union, most East European states have renewed full ties with Israel in the past year. The Jewish state is eager to restore ties with Moscow.

The Soviet Union and Israel renewed consular relations in 1987 and have been drawn into greater contact over Middle East peace efforts and a flood of Soviet Jewish immigrants to Israel.

The first official Israeli government delegation invited by the Soviet Union in 23 years arrived in Moscow Thursday to plan a meeting between the Israeli and Soviet foreign ministers, David Levy and Eduard Shevardnadze.

at the United Nations later this month.

Yosef refused to confirm an Israeli army report that Modai and Neeman would discuss agricultural sales to the Soviet Union and a project in which the Jewish state would refurbish Soviet airliners with U.S.-built engines and Israeli avionics.

Since taking office in Israel's right-wing government in June, Modai has concentrated on ways to absorb one million Soviet Jewish immigrants expected over the next five years. His economic plan was approved by the cabinet Thursday.

Housing Minister Ariel Sharon, another key minister involved in immigration, flew to Moscow last week on a similarly secret trip, at the invitation of a building

cooperative and the Moscow City council.

He discussed a possible barter arrangement exchanging housing for fruit and vegetables in short supply in the Soviet capital. Some 90,000 Soviet immigrants have arrived in Israel so far this year, causing a housing shortage.

The hawkish Modai heads a small faction in Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's Likud Party. Neeman, from the ultra-nationalist Tehiya Party, is a physicist who has held senior positions in Israel's secretive nuclear programme.

Both ministers support permanent Israeli control over the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. In June, Modai said Israel would comply with a Soviet demand not to direct new immigrants to Jewish settlements in the occupied territories.

U.N. resolution on food to Iraq, Kuwait

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Following is the text of the U.N. Security Council resolution adopted on arrangements under which food can be sent to Iraq and Kuwait.

Prior resolutions referred to in the text include 661 of Aug. 6 imposing economic sanctions against Iraq and 664 on Aug. 18 demanding foreign nationals be allowed to leave:

The Security Council, Recalling its Resolution 661 (1990), paragraphs 3(C) and 4 of which apply, except in humanitarian circumstances to foodstuffs,

Recognising that circumstances may arise in which it will be necessary for foodstuffs to be supplied to the civilian population in Iraq or Kuwait in order to relieve human suffering,

Noting that in this respect the committee established under paragraph 6 of that resolution has received communications from several member states,

Emphasising that it is for the Security Council, alone or acting through the committee, to determine whether humanitarian circumstances have arisen,

Deeply concerned that Iraq has failed to comply with its obligations under Security Council Resolution 664 (1990) in respect of the safety and well-being of third state nationals, and reaffirming that Iraq retains full responsibility in this regard under international humanitarian law including, where applicable, the

Fourth Geneva Convention, Acting under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations,

1. Decides that in order to make the necessary determination whether or not for the purposes of paragraph 3(C) and paragraph 4 of Resolution 661 (1990) humanitarian circumstances have arisen, the committee shall keep the situation regarding foodstuffs in Iraq and Kuwait under constant review;

2. Expects Iraq to comply with its obligations under Security Council Resolution 664 (1990) in respect of third state nationals and reaffirms that Iraq remains fully responsible for their safety and well-being in accordance with international humanitarian law including, where applicable, the Fourth Geneva Convention;

3. Requests, for the purposes of paragraphs 1 and 2 of this resolution, that the secretary-general seek urgently, and on a continuing basis, information from relevant United Nations and other appropriate humanitarian agencies and all other sources on the availability of food in Iraq and Kuwait, such information to be communicated by the Secretary-General to the committee regularly;

4. Requests further that in seeking and supplying such information particular attention will be paid to such categories of persons who might suffer

especially, such as children under 15 years of age, expectant mothers, and maternity cases, the sick and the elderly;

5. Decides that if the committee, after receiving the reports from the secretary-general, determines that circumstances have arisen in which there is an urgent humanitarian need to supply foodstuffs to Iraq or Kuwait in order to relieve human suffering, it will report promptly to the council its decision as to how such need should be met;

6. Directs the committee that in formulating its decisions it should bear in mind that foodstuffs should be provided through the United Nations in cooperation with the International Committee of the Red Cross or other appropriate humanitarian agencies and distributed by them or under their supervision in order to ensure they reach the intended beneficiaries;

7. Requests the secretary-general to use his good offices to facilitate the delivery and distribution of foodstuffs to Kuwait and Iraq in accordance with the provisions of this and other relevant resolutions;

8. Recalls that Resolution 661 (1990) does not apply to supplies intended strictly for medical purposes, but in this connection recommends that medical supplies should be exported under the strict supervision of the government of the exporting state or by humanitarian agencies.

U.S. troops bombard chief about going home

SAUDI ARABIA (Agencies) — Impatient U.S. troops badgered the chief of the American armed forces on Thursday to give them a deadline for their desert deployment in Saudi Arabia.

As he left the 24th infantry division's camp area, soldiers bombarded General Colin Powell with questions about when they could expect to go home.

"I want to get you home as fast as possible but bear with me... I can't give you an exact date. Don't think I ever forget that you have loved ones back home," said Powell, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

The scene was repeated at other stops on the general's tour of units in the 140,000-strong U.S. force deployed in Saudi Arabia and the Gulf.

In a field hospital laboratory, Powell asked Sergeant Robert Tate how he was doing. "I would be better if I was at home," Tate replied.

A patient at the hospital, Airman Patrick Vroman, told reporters after Powell had left: "I want to get out of here (Saudi Arabia) not the hospital."

Powell told hospital staff: "I wish I could tell you when it will be over. Everybody wants that answer. I just don't have it yet." Air force personnel complained to reporters about the pay supplement they are losing because the air force feeds them while they are in Saudi Arabia.

Powell told a news conference later he was looking at this prob-

lem but had to take into consideration U.S. servicemen deployed in other parts of the world.

He promised to install more telephones and fax machines so that troops can communicate with home and said he expected Congress to approve a bill making mail free for servicemen.

Rotation of troops would start as soon as practicable possible, he added.

"Morale is high, the troops are hot, there's not a high level of frustration in spite of what they are doing... they are good for the long haul," he told the news conference.

Camouflage uniforms worn by American troops in Saudi Arabia are made for cooler climates, not searing desert heat, military and clothing industry officials say.

The problem is the hot weather uniform, made entirely of cotton, doesn't have the desert camouflage pattern.

The uniform worn by troops is made of the same material — half nylon and half cotton — that was criticised as hot and uncomfortable by American soldiers during the 1982 invasion of Grenada.

Weather conditions are much harsher in the Saudi desert than in Grenada. Daytime temperatures have gone as high as 120 degrees Fahrenheit (48 degrees Celsius) since U.S. forces were sent there in August.

The U.S. administration has not yet decided on the ultimate size of the military force it will

send to the Gulf. U.S. Defence Secretary Dick Cheney said Thursday.

Cheney, on a three-day speaking tour and visit to U.S. military bases in California, said at a news conference that he expected the U.S. troop buildup in the Gulf to continue for some time.

"We haven't specified the final troop level yet," he said.

"The arrangement basically is that we have been given certain missions by the president," Cheney said. "He's asked us to deploy forces to the Gulf to deter further Iraqi aggression, to be able to defend Saudi Arabia and our other friends in the region should deterrence fail, as well as be prepared to use those forces to enforce the U.N. sanctions."

The defence secretary said the buildup will continue until military commanders tell him and the president that they have sufficient forces to "do the job."

"For operational reasons and security reasons, we've not specified exactly what level that will be," Cheney said.

He said there were now military personnel from more than 20 countries involved in the U.S.-led operation, but he did not expect the creation of a more formalised command structure to oversee them.

Cheney said that despite the Gulf crisis the U.S. administration was determined to continue with plans to close a number of military bases in the United States.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Koran
15:45 Programme review
15:45 Children programme
15:45 Educational programme
15:45 News Summary
15:45 Local programme
15:45 Programme review
15:45 News in Arabic
15:45 Arabic series
15:45 Programme review
15:45 Local programme
15:45 News in Arabic
15:45 Arabic play

PROGRAMME TWO

18:10 Documentary
18:10 News in French
18:15 Contact Magazine
18:15 Aujourd'hui en France
18:40 News in Arabic
18:40 Encounter
18:40 Classical music
18:40 News in English
18:40 Feature film: "Shooting Stars"

PRAYER TIMES

04:54 Fajr
06:14 Sunrise
12:51 Dhuhr
16:42 Asr
18:40 Maghreb
18:45 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swatish, Tel. 810740

Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624990

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 683264

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

Terminus Church Tel. 622666

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541

Anglican Church Tel. 625383

Terminus Church Tel. 622666

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751

Armenian International Church Tel. 683266

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811255

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 654932

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be partly cloudy and windy with northerly moderate to fresh, causing dust in the eastern parts of the country. In Aqaba, winds will be

northerly moderate and sea calm.

Amman Min./max. temp. 14/25

Aqaba 22/21

Deserts 16/30

Jordan Valley 20/32

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 25, Aqaba 33. Humidity readings: Amman 65 per cent, Aqaba 44 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Joseph Insh 70260

Dr. Abdul Wahab Awad 844070

Nicoud pharmacy 63538

Dr. Isam Al Kayed 896802

Firas pharmacy 661912

Ferdows pharmacy 77336

Al Asma pharmacy 637655

Nicoud pharmacy 63538

Al Salem pharmacy 636735

Yacoub pharmacy 644945

Shamsan pharmacy 637660

DRB:

Dr. Mohammad Al Tani 771111

Al Sharaa pharmacy 882538

ZARQA:

Dr. Rabab Al Borim 965417

Khalaf pharmacy 965417

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111

Civil Defence Immediate 630341

Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777

Fire Brigade 875128

River Bank 875128

Highway Police 843402

Traffic Police 690290

Public Security Department 690131

Hotel Complaints 602800

Price Complaints 661176

Water and Sewerage 661176

Complaints 897467

Amman Municipality 787111

Complaints 787111

Telephone Information 121

Emergency assistance 121

Central Amman Telephone 010230

Repairs 623101

Zarqa National Hospital 09990771

Dr. Abdul Wahab Awad 844070

Jordan Television 774111

Radio Jordan 774111

Water Authority 680100

JORDAN ELECTRICITY AUTHORITY

British minister urges more aid for evacuees

By Ghadeer Taher
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — British Minister for Overseas Development Linda Chalker urged the international community to contribute more relief aid to Jordan as well as planes to airlift refugees home.

"My first task is to persuade the international community, governments and airlines, to get sufficient air transport and funding for charters to get people home," Chalker told a press conference Thursday at the end of a three-day visit to the Kingdom. The minister, who met Her Majesty Queen Noor and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan to discuss the refugee plight and the economic pressure Jordan is facing, left Friday morning for England.

The British minister visited Shaalan I, Shaalan II and Mercy Camp as well as transit camps near Amman. Chalker said the situation in the border camps had improved and she was informed that Shaalan I "would be razed today (Thursday)."

She said that her "second major task" was to insure the passage of supplies to Jordan "to cope with the existing and potential future refugees."

She said that Jordanian officials had told her of a "further impending problem" — 300,000 Egyptians and 60,000 Asians were being held in camps outside the Iraqi capital waiting to cross into Jordan.

"There are another 250,000 Asians in Iraq and Kuwait who may indeed come through Jordan to get home," the minister said. "There is no good waiting until the end of the month. The help is needed now."

According to Chalker, out of the 50,000 people waiting to go home "there is a shortfall of probably 20,000."

Ministry of Interior Secretary-General Salameh Hamad, who is heading a government task force dealing with the refugees, said Thursday that Jordan was expecting more than 600,000 evacuees from Kuwait and Iraq to cross into Jordan.

Chalker said Britain had already donated over \$5.5 million (\$10.2 million) to help Jordan provide food, medicine, shelter and transport to the refugees. The minister said the British government had chartered three aircraft to bring 120 metric tonnes of supplies donated by the British people. The minister said she expected the supplies to arrive in Jordan "in the next couple of days."

Queen receives British minister

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Wednesday received at Al Ma'wa Palace the British MP Minister of Overseas Affairs, Linda Chalker, who is currently visiting Jordan.

During the meeting, Queen Noor briefed the minister on the evacuees crisis in Jordan and stressed the need for international support and coordination in handling the evacuees as well as the repercussions that their influx has on the country's economic and social aspects.

Both the Queen and the minister reiterated the need to repatriate the evacuees as soon as possible, so as to avoid further complications.

Her Majesty said that the human tragedy Jordan was trying to cope with came as a consequence of the escalating tension in the Gulf and that it would be eased if a diplomatic settlement to the Gulf crisis were reached.

Her Majesty stated that Jordan, both its government and its people, were doing their utmost to offer relief services to the evacuees, and that transportation arrangements had been made, in coordination with the evacuees' respective countries for speedy repatriation.

The Queen expressed her appreciation of the international organisations who responded to the country's appeal for aid and are doing their best to extend their relief services.

The second thing is to see whether we could do something about the insurance which is very heavy...., the third thing is whether anymore shipping companies will put forward ships that can take people home."

She voiced concern about the "communication problem" with the Asians in the camps. "There is nothing worse than being a refugee and not knowing what is going on," she said.

Chalker said she hoped appeals to governments and airlines would result in getting people home. She said the general in charge of the Jordanian Air Force had told her he could handle all the planes "we can possibly get" and allow them to leave five to ten minutes apart. The minister said it would be better to use civilian aircraft rather than military ones because of the "tense situation in the Gulf."

She said she hoped to get "a better response" from British Airways to send airplanes to airlift the refugees home. "I have spoken to Lord King (head of British Airways) once and I will speak to him when I get home."

In answer to a question about the delay in the response by the international community to Jordan's appeals for assistance, Chalker said "the enormity of this problem had not been understood outside Jordan."

"It is always easy with hindsight to criticise. Let us get on with the job and I cannot change the past but I jolly well intend to improve the future to get these people home."

Crown Prince: Arab solution in the Gulf will not contradict international legitimacy

AMMAN (J.T.) — An Arab solution to the Gulf crisis would not contradict an international solution but would rather form part of the international legitimacy seeking to achieve peace, according to His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.

Jordan has been seeking international support to end the occupation of Jerusalem and the Palestinian land for the past 23 years, and "feels the bitterness for the lack of the implementation of United Nations resolutions in the region," the Crown Prince said in an interview with the Canadian C.B.C. television network telecast Thursday evening.

Prince Hassan said Jordan hoped the Gulf crisis would be contained in an Arab framework and not through a foreign security system, since the Arabs should have the prime responsibility for their region's peace and security.

Prince Hassan reiterated that Jordan rejects the annexation of Kuwait as it had rejected the occupation of the Falklands and Afghanistan, and continues to reject the military occupation and annexation of Jerusalem and other parts of Palestinian land.

Jordanians and the Palestinians, he added, feel that a grave injustice has been done to them as a result of 23 years of Israeli occupation of Palestinian land and seek to implement U.N. resolutions to achieve justice.

The Crown Prince said that should an Iraqi withdrawal take place, international guarantees must be given for the security and peace of the Gulf region.

In reply to a question about Jordan's future relations with Saudi Arabia and Kuwait in the light of Jordan's present stand on the Gulf crisis, the Crown Prince said that Jordan could by no means be ungrateful to Saudi and Kuwaiti financial assistance in the past years; but Jordan, he said, was severely hit by the Gulf crisis since 50 per cent of its exports go to Iraq and Kuwait, and it stands to lose nearly \$3 billion annually should the crisis continue.

Jordan, he added, wanted to see Arab capital invested in the

Arab countries and the United States taking a more even-handed role, supporting peace rather than war.

He said that Jordan was caught up in the crisis and was hard hit by the sanctions imposed on Iraq following its takeover of Kuwait.

In reply to a question about Jordan's stand vis-a-vis Iraq's offer of free oil to poor countries, Prince Hassan said that Iraq was supplying Jordan with oil in settlement of previous debts and should this oil stop, the Kingdom's industry would come to a standstill at a time when the country suffers from an unemployment problem.

He said that Jordan welcomed the Iraqi offer of free oil for the Third World countries.

Lecture stresses importance of Arab unity in attaining goals

By Ali Masarwah
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A lecture entitled "Palestine in the year 2000 — Arabic and International Perspectives" was held by Shafiq Al Hut, a prominent Palestinian literary figure and former PLO Executive Committee member, at the Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation Wednesday evening.

During his address Al Hut reviewed the development of regional and international events during the twentieth century which have led to the current state of division in the Arab World.

"The twentieth century has seen the colonialisation of the Arab World, the division of the Arab World into separate entities, the establishment of the state of Israel and the polarisation between the East and the West which further deepened the rift between the Arab countries," Al Hut said.

"Even the collapse of communism in Eastern Europe and the end of the cold war had brought no respite for Arabs as the East-West confrontation is

now evolving into a North-South conflict which will be fought over the control of natural resources," according to Al Hut.

Citing the events taking place in Lebanon as an example, the speaker said the current state of Arab affairs had become confused to a degree which makes it impossible to distinguish between friend and foe.

"The Arabs have to go back to their roots, set priorities and define their goals; without reestablishing the true Arab identity, there can be no hope of finding a way out of this abyss or retaining what we still possess," Al Hut said.

In an obvious reference to the Palestine problem, Al Hut declared that there was no way regional suffering could be separated from the destiny of the whole nation and that pressing problems should be addressed by all Arabs.

The speaker also emphasised the need to carry the struggle to new, sophisticated levels, according to the demands of the present times.

"Carrying banners and chanting slogans will not bring about the necessary changes; the Arab minds have to be freed and people must be given their share of responsibility in formulating policies and in influencing the decision making process. The illusion of the legitimacy of factionalist states and their alleged ability to deal with regional conflicts has to be discarded once and for all as it has been proven that only a strong, unified state can stand up to the challenges of our times," Al Hut maintained.

The lecturer stressed the importance of Arab unity, saying that even the European nations, long divided by diverging interests and regional rivalries, had succeeded in agreeing on establishing a common market and a unified currency in order to protect their respective economic interests.

"It was precisely the indecisive oil policy of the Gulf states which helped facilitate the American intervention in the Gulf. In the future, a united Arab oil policy must be adopted in order to ensure that the third world, not the West,

benefits from oil revenues," Al Hut said.

While hailing the Palestinian uprising as a "great success" which had revealed the true nature of the Palestinian struggle for self-determination, Al Hut criticised the high-level PLO policy of being "inactive" and "idle" after proclaiming the Palestinian state two years ago.

"We did not pursue the final transformation from a revolutionary movement to a state; the nature of the organisation (PLO) after being transformed into the government (of the state of Palestine) is not at all clear. Upon announcing our initiative, we failed to put across the political message through the media in the appropriate manner," he maintained.

Despite the generally pessimistic tone of the lecture, Shafiq Al Hut said he remained optimistic about the outcome of the Palestinian struggle. Quoting the French author Andre' Malraux Al Hut said that "issues farthest away from the mind are those closest to realisation."

Ration cards to be issued at workplace

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Supply has announced a new measure to facilitate the distribution of ration cards to the public to enable them to buy rice, sugar and powdered milk at subsidised prices.

The Ministry's Secretary-General Rafi Ibrahim said in a statement Friday that as of Saturday cards will be issued to beneficiaries at their places of work, in groups, like employees of the Armed Forces, the public security and the civil defence departments, professional unions, major companies and banks.

He said that citizens were not restricted by time to obtain the ration cards but should hurry to receive their coupons to purchase the subsidised commodities if they needed them immediately.

"Citizens securing coupons from now until the end of November can buy their allowances of these commodities for September, October and November, those who fail to get their cards and coupons lose their right for these three months, but not for the subsequent months," Ibrahim said.

Jordan will not prevent influx of evacuees

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan will not prevent another large influx of Asian evacuees from entering its borders, even if it's ability to cope with their needs will be "overstretched," Salameh Hamad, secretary-general of the Ministry of Interior said Thursday.

The needs of the evacuees, government officials say, have been of a major concern to Jordan since the influx began six weeks ago. The opening, Wednesday, of a new and geographically better located makeshift camp in Azraq is intended to centralise the bulk of the evacuees for administrative reasons.

But a lack of resources and an ever increasing influx of evacuees has drained much of Jordan's resources. "Our resources have already been strained and parts of our national reserves have already been touched to enable us to deal with the evacuee crisis, but whatever happens we cannot stop people from entering the country," Hamad, who is in charge of coordinating the welfare organisations' activities, told reporters.

According to the figures Hamad made available to the press, there are 40,000 Asian evacuees in Jordan. A total of 589,000 evacuees have entered Jordan since the Gulf crisis began August 2, and another 360,000 Asians are still in Iraq and Kuwait and could come to Jordan any time.

The Indian government has informed Jordan that as of Sept. 14, 2,000 Indian nationals would be arriving to Jordan daily from Iraq and Kuwait.

The number of Asians, Arabs and other foreigners estimated to still be in Kuwait and Iraq is two million. Some are believed to be waiting the makeshift camps, similar to those in Jordan, for planes or ships to take them to their home countries.

Hamad said that Jordan could technically not stop any evacuee from Iraq from entering Jordanian territory for humanitarian reasons. "We cannot limit peoples' movement nor can Iraq forbid them to leave."

Although Jordan greatly appreciates relief efforts provided by governmental and non-governmental agencies, the need for aid and assistance in ensuring the evacuees' health and their return to their countries is still great, Hamad said.

Asked about what would happen to the evacuees, almost all of whom will be transferred to the two new camps in Azraq "until transportation is provided," once the rainy season begins, Hamad said that the need for help would increase.

"We are in need of assistance for the evacuees; at the same time we see no way we can prevent an increasing numbering from entering the country."

Hamad said he hoped other countries in the region, such as Iran and Turkey, would open their borders to the flood of evacuees.

Jordanian elected member of U.N. Human Rights Committee

AMMAN (J.T.) — Columnist Waleed Sadi was elected to the prestigious 18-member U.N. Human Rights Committee in an election held at the U.N. headquarters in New York Thursday. The Human Rights Committee is charged with the mandate of monitoring the application of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights by the states which have ratified this Covenant and meets three times annually for this purpose, once in New York and twice in Geneva.

Oman denies deportation of Palestinian workers

AMMAN (J.T.) — Oman has denied that it has deported any Arab citizens since the beginning of the Gulf crisis last month and said that a team from Oman had recently concluded contracts with Jordanian teachers.

The denial came from Omani Ambassador here Mohammad Ben Sultan who said that press reports about Oman's deportation of 3,600 Palestinians "were totally groundless."

All Jordanians or Palestinians serving with the public or private sectors in Oman are still carrying on with their duties normally, according to the ambassador.

He said the total number of Jordanians or Palestinians working in Oman does not exceed 3,600.

Other reports said earlier that Qatar had evicted Palestinians employed for many years in Doha and other Qatari towns. The Palestinian Committee for Human Rights published a memorandum in which it included a list of names of evicted people who had been serving in Qatar's defence sectors in some cases for more than 25 years.

The memorandum, a copy of which was made available to the Jordan Times, accused the Qatari government of systematic eviction of Palestinians. "Palestinian officials had taken up the issue with the Qatari government in a bid to end this arbitrary action, but the result was an acceleration in the process of evicting Palestinians and their families," the memorandum said.

"The eviction of Palestinians started last month without any justification or provocation, and scores of Palestinians have been stranded in Jordan and Iraq and some have already made their way back to the occupied Arab territories," the memorandum said.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- Open studio and workshop for artist Samia Zaru displaying paintings, sculptures and hand-painted fabrics. Location: off 2nd Circle, opposite Rosenthal (9:30-1:30 and 3:30-6:30).
- Exhibition displaying posters on environmental control measures of each sector of the environment (air, land and water) at the British Council.
- Archaeological exhibition entitled "Al Lajjun — a Roman Frontier Fort" at the Registration and Research Centre of the Department of Antiquities, Jabal Amman.
- Art exhibition by Mohammad Nassrallah at the Royal Cultural Centre.

LECTURE

- Lecture by Prof. Dr. Siegfried Mittmann entitled "Khirbet Ez-Zarqan — the City of Early Bronze Age in Northern Jordan" at the Goethe Institute — 7:00 p.m.

THEATRE

- Part one of the Shakespeare's play "Othello" will be shown on video at the British Council at 5:00 p.m.

Japan gives \$2 billion loan to Jordan, Turkey, Egypt

AMMAN (Peira) — The Japanese government has decided to give a \$2 billion loan, in aid to Jordan, Turkey and Egypt because of the economic difficulties these countries pass through as a result of the Gulf crisis, a spokesman for the Japanese Embassy here has said.

The sources added that Japan will give \$600 million to the three countries in the form of urgent aid loans, with an interest rate of 1 per cent, payable over 30 years. The remaining 1.4 billion will be given to the three countries in the form of concessional grants or technological cooperation programmes.

Armenian patriarch arrives in Jordan

AMMAN (AP) — The Armenian Orthodox Church Patriarch for Jordan and the Holy Land, Toros Manougian, arrived Friday for his first visit to Jordan since being elected to the position in March.

Manougian planned a five-day visit expected to include a conference with King Hussein, government officials and a Sunday midday sermon at the Armenian Church on Jabal Ashrafieh in Amman, an Armenian community spokesman said.

Based in Jerusalem, Manougian is the most senior patriarch in the church after the leaders in Yerevan, Armenia, and in Lebanon, said the spokesman.

Now 72, the patriarch was archbishop in New York City for more than 20 years, the spokesman said. He was born in Iraq and became a priest in Jerusalem.

Worldwide, the church has 9 million members, including 3,000 in Jordan and 5,000 in Israel and Palestine, the spokesman said.



Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid Friday meets the Armenian Patriarch for Jordan and the Holy Land currently on a visit to Jordan (Photo Youssef Al 'Allan)

Armenian community in Jordan and familiarising himself with their living conditions. The patriarch said that the current situation in the region calls for solidarity and rallying behind the leadership of His Majesty King Hussein.

Manougian was received upon arrival by Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid, Balqa governor and police department director and senior government officials.

Later in an arrival ceremony at the Armenian Orthodox Church, the patriarch called on all Armenians in the Kingdom to fully support the King and his endeavours to find a peaceful solution to the Middle East problems.

He also called for the Armenian community's active involvement in contributing to the prosperity of Jordan under the leadership of King Hussein.

Drive carefully!

Traffic can be hazardous

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975.

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Let the masses shape their future

THE ARAB people's conference that His Majesty the King will open today is an important yardstick in our nation's struggle for unity, liberty and progress. It is not a substitute for Arab summitry or collective action on the state or Arab League levels. Nor is it an alternative to unified Arab stands and positions. But it should be viewed as a forum for representatives of the Arab masses to say their mind and word on what is happening around them.

The fact that the conference takes place in Amman, and that it is being opposed by numerous Arab governments who have allied themselves with colonialist mentalities and actions, says something about the Arab people's determination to be the important constituent part that they should be in shaping their future and their nation's policies, especially at this critical stage. There are two major factors involved in this endeavour. The first is that the Arab man and woman in the street have had enough of living with unrepresentative decisions, taken on their behalf by their governments, that go against their will and interest. The second is that the Arab people would never want to polarise politically the way the Arab regimes have following the ill-fated Arab summit conference in Cairo on Aug. 10.

The message here should be loud and clear: Through democracy and democratic practices, without interference from foreign powers, the Arab Nation can debate its problems and aspirations and can express its free will in what kind of future it wants for itself.

The conference can be interpreted as a solid attempt to bring all Arab popular forces together with the aim of studying and analysing what has happened in the Gulf and where we expect to head now.

The meeting is called upon to reflect and bring out the true sentiments and feelings of the Arab masses at large. It is no place for rhetoric and for settling old scores. To our mind, the various parties, groups and individuals who will attend the conference are not all united in their views on the Iraq-Kuwait conflict. But they are in their total opposition to the presence on Arab soil of foreign troops whose purpose appears to be none other than the reconquest of the Arab Homeland or at least the subjugation of the Arab will and resources through military means.

The holding of the conference in Amman is testimony to the success of Jordan's democratisation process that has taken root in our society over the past year. Except for the West Bank and Gaza perhaps, there has been no Arab street that has truly represented Arab feelings towards the Gulf crisis more than here in Jordan. This is a healthy sign of a democracy that should be emulated and followed throughout the Arab World. Let the representatives of the Arab masses have their say in what is going on around them and their decisions be the guide for action by their governments.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

TEHRAN'S declaration of a holy war on the United States and the other invading forces in the Gulf is bound to tip the balance of power in the region and prompt countries involved with the United States in its adventure to reconsider their position carefully, said Al Rai Arabic daily Friday. The new development means cohesion between the Arabs and the Muslims around the world, and the internationalisation of the whole crisis. Iran's declaration of a holy war against the Americans means that any Muslim around the world could carry out any attack against American interests, and that Iraq would not be solely blamed for any harm to American interests from now on, the paper pointed out. Millions of Muslims, said the paper, will from now on make it their business to wage a war on the Americans to end their presence in the holy land and remove their danger from the Arab and Islamic area. The Americans are now playing down the effect of such a declaration by Tehran, and they say that Iran will remain committed to the embargo and will not help Iraq, said the paper. This means, the paper added, that the Americans are now desperately begging Iran to refrain from assisting Iraq in its confrontation with the American and allied forces. The paper called on Arab and Islamic nations to respond favourably to Iran's declaration and bolster the Arab-Islamic front against the invading American forces and their allies to safeguard national interests and protect the holy land.

A columnist in Al Rai Arabic daily Friday calls on the Jordanian government to close the door before the Asian and Egyptian nationals and bar any of them from entering Jordanian territory as the Kingdom is facing a gigantic task of caring for the refugees. Ghazi Al Saeid says that Jordan with its poor and meagre resources of food and water is struggling to give accommodation to the thousands of evacuees who could have taken other routes to reach their home instead of burdening Jordan with their needs of subsistence. Should a war break out in the Gulf and should the Ruweished border post remain open to the evacuees no less than two million expatriates would find their way to the Kingdom, says Saeid. In the event of war Jordan will definitely find itself incapable of feeding the huge influx of refugees, who are bound to starve, adds the writer. In addition, those who are already here will no doubt try desperately to remain in Jordan because many of them have originally left their home countries to escape hunger or religious or racial discrimination and will seek work in this country no matter how low the wages are, says the writer. Jordan, he says, should take precautionary measures now before it is too late, and avoid confronting a real human tragedy far more dangerous than the one we are witnessing at present.

Al Dostour daily said Friday that Britain is trying to find a way through the Americans to create new realities in the Arab region and to establish a permanent foothold for the Western forces in the Arab land. Of course Britain and the United States are also trying to pillage Arab wealth and Arab oil, and subdue the Arab nation under the pretext of a new security order, the paper said.

View from Amman

'The Helsinki summit: Opportunities'

By Kamel S. Abu Jaber

THE IMPORTANCE for us in the Arab World of the Helsinki summit between U.S. President George Bush and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev must not be underestimated. On the international level, the summit was the first to be held in the post-Malta summit and the atmosphere of the detente of the post-cold-war era; detente that quickly developed into partnership between the two powers. On the regional level and on both its two tiers: the Arab and the non-Arab states of the Middle East, the Helsinki summit may prove of decisive historical significance. For while it was called to deal with the Gulf crisis-1990 specifically; it also discussed other matters and problems of importance to the entire area.

Before entering into the reasons behind the importance of this summit, I must admit that I was almost totally surprised by its results. This is especially true in view of the very weak and vulnerable political position of the Soviet Union — a vulnerability that the Soviet premier emphasised three days later when speaking to the Austrian TV saying that forces within the Soviet Union, including its economic troubles, may cause it to disintegrate. It is in light of this fact that the statement issued at the end of the summit should be viewed. It emphasises, among other things, the United States' desire to bolster the progressively weakening position of Gorbachev, indeed, the Soviet Union itself. Prior to its convention, I thought that it might end up like the June 23, 1967 Glassboro summit between President Johnson and Alexei Kosygin which resulted in the effective abandonment of the affairs of the Middle East by the Soviet Union in favour of the United States.

Apert from the fact that the statement of the Helsinki summit sounded tough on Iraq and also subject to different interpretations by different people,

it indicated that the "new atmosphere" in international relations is a reality that others in the world must realise. Three days after the summit Bush emphasised that "... a new partnership of nations has begun..." The new partnership promises to be more than a passing mood. It is a new reality that poses dangers as well as offers opportunities. And we in the Middle East should come quickly to grips with it. We also must understand that the United States is going to stay in the area for a very long time. Perhaps till the last barrel of oil is extracted from the ground. On this point Bush said on Sept. 11, 1990 "... Our involvement in the Gulf is not transitory... it preceded Saddam Hussein and will survive him..."

In any case the Helsinki summit emphasised that in the next stage of the crisis in the Gulf, only peaceful means should be pursued. This is important, in that it gives time

to intervene between the two Arab camps on the one hand and to develop the so-called "Arab solution." It is not enough to speak of an Arab solution in general terms: Such a solution must be elaborated and developed in such a way that it can constitute an Arab initiative. Such an initiative should provide the ground work not only for the general reconciliation of the Arabs with themselves, but also satisfy at least the minimum demands of both original parties to the dispute: Iraq and Kuwait.

Iraq has been saying it is willing to negotiate, should a linkage between the Gulf and other Middle Eastern crises become a reality. A step, perhaps only tentative in this direction has been taken which, "if pursued intelligently, and without our usual bombastic rhetoric, would constitute a precedent in this direction. In its final paragraph, the statement was quite clear on

this point. It clearly emphasised that "... the presidents (Bush and Gorbachev) direct their foreign ministers to work with countries in the region and outside it to develop regional security structures and measures to promote peace and stability. It is essential to work actively to resolve all the remaining conflicts in the Middle East..."

Of all the Arab states of the region, Jordan has emerged as the most qualified to pursue a mediation effort that should aim at restoring at least a modicum of Arab understanding. While Jordan's position has been clear vis-a-vis the necessity of Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait and the restoration of legitimacy there, it has maintained good relations with Iraq and at least a working relationship with other Arab states. It is now the duty of Jordan to move quickly to crystallise an Arab position that satisfies the original parties to the dispute. Immediate consultations with King Fahd

and presidents Mubarak and Assad are of the essence now. What would Iraq really settle for? Also what would Kuwait as well as the other parties to the dispute contemplate, as so reasonable they can at least live with?

While a compromise is not to the complete satisfaction of all, it, at least avoids violence, and allows not only for one to live with one's self, but to look towards the future as well. How can the region ever settle so much Iraqi, Saudi, Egyptian and Syrian blood be spilled?

Jordan's role now is more vital than ever and given time and some support, the task may not be an impossible one. It was Jordan that worked towards the reconciliation of Egypt with the rest of the Arab World. If anything, His Majesty King Hussein has demonstrated time and again his great ability, to be creative, almost always a step ahead of events. If new thinking is needed, he is the man for it.

Habash: Arabs have option

(Continued from page 1)

Zionists do not have any right to control one quarter of a metre of Palestinian land," he argued.

Yet, he said, the Arabs would be ready to accept all international resolutions concerning the Gulf and the Palestinian problem if the U.S. proves itself genuine in its commitment to international legitimacy regarding all problems.

"We are more than ready to resort to international legitimacy concerning the region. But there are international resolutions pertaining to the Palestinian problem. You are welcome to apply the international resolutions on the Gulf if you are ready to apply them on all problems," he said.

"But if the U.S. posture as guardian of the international legitimacy proved to be fake then we would (by challenging it to apply all resolutions) to expose its thieries and pretences and resort to Arab revolutionary legitimacy," he said.

He said that the initiative declared by Iraqi President Saddam Hussein on Aug. 12 linking a solution to the Gulf crisis and an overall settlement for the Middle East conflict would serve as a good basis for establishing peace in the region.

"The Iraqi initiative says the following: Listen the U.S., if you want to apply international legitimacy on the Gulf and if you insist on posing as the defender of international legitimacy we are ready for all of this. But there are other resolutions concerning the Palestinian problem and Lebanon which also should be applied," he said.

Habash argued that the division within the official Arab ranks over the Gulf crisis did not reflect on the Arab people. "On the contrary, the Arab masses are united behind Iraq and against foreign intervention," he said.

The Palestinian leader said that except for Syria the current division

of the Arab World in two camps was predictable in view of the concerned countries' level of dependence on the West.

"The Gulf states endorsed an attitude compatible with their longstanding policies and reliance on the West. The same applies to the Camp David regime in Egypt, and the Camp David godfather, Morocco," he said. "But the Syrian position was unpredictable and unexpected."

Habash, who is based in Damascus, expressed hope that Syria would reconsider its position and "assume its natural place among the countries which opposed the foreign military presence in the Gulf."

Habash dismissed suggestions that the PLO was undermining its own longstanding quest for self-determination by supporting Iraq. "One has to closely study the PLO position. The PLO has declared publicly that it did not support the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait and has been searching for an Arab solution," he said.

He pointed out self-determination for the Kuwaiti people had been a basic principle and ingredient of the PLO's initiative for a solution to the Gulf crisis.

Asked whether a serious setback could befall the Palestinian struggle if Iraq was defeated, especially that the PLO is backing Iraq and can no longer count on full-fledged support for the organisation, Habash said that the Arabs should not be deterred by American power.

"I know very well that the U.S. administration feels now that it has reached the peak of its glory. I know that it feels that it has won the cold war against the socialist bloc. I know that it feels that the world has been transformed from a bi-polar one into a one-polar world led by the U.S.," he said. "But I also know that the U.S. is not the destiny of the Palestinian people, or even the destiny of humanity."

Hawatmeh

(Continued from page 1)

oil... when an Arab country took the initiative to control Arab wealth."

"They have come 12,000 kilometres to the Gulf... while an Arab soldier has entered American soil," he said.

However, asked if the DFLP will order attacks on Western targets if the foreign forces do not leave the Gulf, Hawatmeh reaffirmed the PLO's commitment not to stage attacks outside Palestine. "Such attacks will not happen," he said. "We are fully committed not to carry out any attack outside Palestine."

The Jordanian-born Palestinian leader compared the present situation in the region with the 1956 Suez Canal crisis and predicted that Western powers will lose in the confrontation. "I anticipate that just as the 1956 war was the beginning of the end for the British and French empires, this crisis will also mark the end for foreign empires here in the region," said Hawatmeh, who was born in Salt, 30 kilometres outside Amman.

The DFLP leader said Jordanian-Palestinian relations had improved greatly in the wake of the initiation of the democratic process in the Kingdom last year.

"The democratisation process in Jordan has opened the course for reestablishing Jordanian-Palestinian relations on a brotherly and pan-Arab basis," he said.

"Jordanian-Palestinian relations have improved greatly in part because of the courageous stand endorsed by the Jordanian people, government and King Hussein against the foreign military intervention in the Gulf,"

Hawatmeh said. Speaking on behalf of his party at times and on behalf of the PLO at others, Hawatmeh said: "We believe that the current mobilisation and build up of North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) and American troops in the Gulf took place as a result of precalculated and predetermined plans."

He boosted his argument by pointing out that U.S. Secretary of State James Baker said recently that U.S. troops might remain in the Gulf even after crisis — is over and referring to Baker's for forming a regional military alliance.

Hawatmeh reiterated the oft-heard question in the Arab World today that why the United States and the West did not display the same enthusiasm and spirit in earlier inter-Arab conflicts or the broader Arab-Israeli conflict. He specifically referred to the Algerian-Moroccan conflict and the Egyptian-Libyan flare-up as well as Israel's occupation of Arab territories.

In an event, "a new political map will emerge as a result of the recent developments in the Gulf region," he said. In reply to a question, Hawatmeh, who is closely linked with Moscow, gave a very positive assessment of the Soviet position on the Gulf crisis. He said while U.S. President George Bush, who met Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev in Helsinki, Finland, in the first week of this month, had "left all options, including the military option," the Soviet leader had "ruled out a military option" to resolve the problem.

Conference opens today

(Continued from page 1)

wished the conference every success in reaching a pan-Arab solution to the Gulf crisis.

The organisers also received a cable from Algerian National Liberation Front (FLN), former assistant secretary general Mohammed Sherif Masadieh who also regretted being unable to attend for "technical reasons related to air transport."

Masadieh expressed his "full

support for the Iraqi people and leadership and the Arab masses in their struggle, including armed struggle, against imperialist aggression on the Arab and Islamic nations."

The conference is the first such gathering anywhere in the Arab World since Iraq's takeover of Kuwait on Aug. 2. Most of the participants come from the nine countries that oppose foreign intervention in the Gulf.

Out with the Americans, in with a new Arab order

The following article by Mohammad Hassenain Heikel was published in The Times of London Sept. 12. Heikel formerly served as the editor of the Egyptian Al-Ahram and is the author of many works on Arab politics.

THE invasion of Kuwait has been presented in the West as if a madman had awoken from a dream and devalued a neighbouring country. That is not exactly, true, the picture is more complicated.

I do not condone the invasion. It was wrong and Iraq must withdraw; it has also deepened the divisions within the Arab World. But the West has failed to understand that its response aggravated the situation, providing a focus for a much wider Arab sense of anger and humiliation.

The response amounts to an attempted American solution with an Arab cover, consisting of a few thousands troops from Egypt, Morocco and Syria. This will not succeed. Only an Arab solution can meet the psychology of the Arab mind. I shall suggest such a solution: but first let me set it in context.

The borders of the Gulf countries sprang from the British genius for creating situations which would provide reasons to keep returning. We in the Arab World accepted those borders as a means to bring the imperial era to an end. We assumed that they would evolve and change as our dream of an Arab Nation became a reality, much as Europe is evolving as it gains a new identity.

There were always divisions which stood in the way of our hopes: tensions between desert people and city people, between conservative and constitutional elements, between reactionary and progressive forces.

The struggle for independence and ownership of the oil was conducted in the cities — Cairo, Baghdad, Damascus, Beirut — but ultimately it was the tribal leaders who gained the oil. The cities were deprived of the fruits of their struggle.

After the departure of the British the first generation of tribal leaders behaved responsibly, reporting the implied contract of trust with the cities. Their children, however, grew up believing they had a right to rule. They found lawyers to transform a tribal system into a royal one. As each royal family grew in size, it came to form the entire administration. In Saudi Arabia the royal family consists of 6,500 to 7,000 people; they take everything.

"A new world order is emerging, but Arabs are at risk of being excluded. As West and East have come together, the fossilisation of Arab authority has become worse while the extravagance of certain individuals has fuelled mass resentment."

I have never seen the Arab World so divided as it is now. There is much emotion and little clarity. If you ask an ordinary Arab where he stands you will never receive a clear answer, but his unease will be obvious.

There is a general state of despair, anger and humiliation. We Arabs had our hopes; but we were badly let down. The old order does not want to die and the future is refusing to be born. It is a bewildering agonising time.

In the first few days after the invasion of Kuwait an Arab solution seemed possible: had it been pursued with sincerity and persistence it might have succeeded. As weak as we may be, any Arab solution would have been preferable to an American one.

The Americans' use of

threats has made matters worse. It united behind Saddam Hussein many of those who think how the Arab World have opposed him. The fact that the U.S. forces are in Saudi Arabia, and therefore close to Mecca and Medina, is an affront to the deepest Islamic feelings. In this situation symbols are more explosive than bombs.

It is unimaginable that President Saddam Hussein would retreat in the face of an American threat, though he might have done so if the forces facing him had been entirely from Arab nations. I fear that the American tactics may make irrational behaviour more likely. Let us remember that people sometimes welcome martyrdom as an act of defiance.

Even if an Arab solution had led to civil war, that would have been preferable to foreign intervention and possible foreign domination. I dread to think how the Arab World would be after an American strike.

I have much sympathy for the predicament of His Majesty King Hussein. After 37 years on the stormy throne of Jordan his position looks more difficult than ever. But while others prevaricated, he tried to find an Arab solution. His visits to Washington and London and other capitals brought him much humiliation, not least from Downing Street. I have differed with him on many issues, but on this occasion his diplomacy offers at least some hope.

What should be done now? The Helsinki summit has given a breathing space which the Arabs should use. Washington will continue preparing for war while Moscow seeks peace. The Soviet Union should not be disregarded in this equation: the idea that it would

stand aside while war engulfed the region, possibly inflaming its own Muslim population, is mistaken. But while the Soviet role is welcome, it is the Arabs who should take the initiative.

The best approach is to seek a new Arab order for the future. I think we could learn from the way the European nations came together after the World War II. They began by creating the European Coal and Steel Community in 1957. It is an idea we could borrow, with some adaptation.

Most Arab states either produce oil or provide routes through which it is transported, such as pipelines, canals and roads. I propose the creation of an Arab body to bring these interests together. Let us devote part of our resources to geography and part to history: a share would go to the country producing the oil or through which it was transported; another share to an Arab development authority. The aim should be to achieve a common Arab interest in reducing the present inequalities.

That may seem like a dream, but dreams are necessary at times of great danger. No solution will succeed unless it offers a vision.

The respect for borders, however arbitrary they may be, should be balanced by a sharing of wealth. The Arab World should be coaxed out of its depression through charity and conviction, not threats and intimidation. Only the Arabs are in a position to bring about a dialogue.

Force is sterile and will lead to nothing. There is more to legitimacy than the preservation of the status quo; first and foremost it should be an expression of the realities of geography and history. Legitimacy should also reflect human values and aspirations, and the fact that these change with the times.

Baker: No problems in U.S.-Syria cooperation

(Continued from page 1)

Nevertheless Baker's talks with Assad were "positive and constructive," said Syrian Foreign Minister Faouk Al Sharaa, who also appeared at the news conference.

Syria will send additional troops to the Gulf region to join the 4,000 it has already committed to Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. Western diplomats said 15,000 troops would join the U.S.-led multinational forces.

Neither Baker nor Sharaa would give details. "I would only say that Syria has indicated that it intends to send or volunteer substantial forces for the common effort," Baker said.

But the diplomats said the additional troops probably will be accompanied by Syrian tanks and may be transported by the Soviet Union.

Baker, however, said there was "no indication" the Soviets were helping the Syrians.

He also said the United States does not presently plan to expand the United Nations-imposed economic embargo of Iraq and Kuwait to include an air blockade. But he says if the current embargo proves leaky, "it is important that additional sanctions be looked at or sought from the U.N."

Baker's visit was the first by a U.S. secretary of state in two years, partly because of Washington's charge that Syria promotes "terrorism."

Washington recalled its ambassador from Syria in November 1986, after Britain said it has evidence that Syrian agents were behind an attempt to blow up an Israeli jetliner at London's Heathrow airport in April that year.

Syria has been trying to distance itself from terrorism since its implication in the Al Jettier affair. In July 1987, it expelled Palestinian leader Abu Nidal from Damascus and closed down his offices.

"We talked about the subject of terrorism and the real problem that the U.S. has with Syria on this subject," Baker said. "We have had extensive discussion on that topic."

The fact that those problems exist does not and should not prevent our trying to cooperate together to achieve the goal of the entire international community, the reversal of Iraq's occupation of Kuwait," Baker said.

Diplomats say U.S.-Syrian exchanges on "terrorism" have focused on two questions:

— A definition of "terrorism" spelling out what forms of Palestinian resistance to Israel are permissible;

— Whether a Damascus-based Palestinian group led by Ahmad Jibril blew up an American airliner over Scotland in December 1988.

Foreign Minister Sharaa repeated to reporters Assad's pledge that if the case against Jibril is proven Syria will prosecute the culprits.

Sharaa also said that Syria so far believed that United Nations sanctions would force Iraq out of Kuwait and direct military action was not needed.

Baker and Sharaa agreed that the Gulf crisis should not be directly linked to the Arab-Israeli conflict but Sharaa said he believed forcing Iraq out of Kuwait "would pave the way for Israeli withdrawal from occupied Arab territories."

The dramatic switching of alliance in the region is highlighted by the fact that Baker has been in and out of the Middle East twice in two weeks without visiting Israel, America's main ally in the region.

Seven diplomats in Damascus say that if Israel took an active part in the anti-Iraq effort Arab governments opposing the Iraqi move into Kuwait would have their position undermined.

But Baker told reporters Israel should not be excluded from long-term plans to maintain

stability in the Middle East after the Gulf crisis is over and American ground forces leave Saudi Arabia.

"Consideration can and should be given to some sort of a regional security structure... led by the countries in the region," he said.

"We have had naval forces in the Persian Gulf since 1947 but we have no intention or desire to establish a permanent military ground presence in this region."

Asked about Israel's role Baker replied: "When you talk about a regional security structure you cannot exclude any countries in the region nor should you exclude, in my view at least, any countries from outside the region."

U.S. navy

(Continued from page 1)

De Michelis said the European Community, of which Italy is the current president, would take a joint stand on the alleged Iraqi violation of diplomatic immunity.

"We will act as one on this and the remaining EC embassies will automatically take over the interests of those that have been forced to close," he said.

De Michelis said the Greek embassy in Kuwait had been forced to close Friday and that Iraqi troops had taken unspecified action against the Danish ambassador in the past few days.

A history of differences put aside to map out unity

By **Amis K. Andoni**
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Jordanian Arab National Democratic Alliance (JANDA), which sponsors the pan-Arab popular conference in Amman today, is a broad predominantly leftist coalition that was set up last July in an attempt to unify nationalist and leftist trends in the country.

The formation of JANDA, was then hailed by activists as a major turning point in the history of the popular political movement in Jordan particularly that the leftists and the nationalists had emerged fragmented after three decades of suppression of political pluralism in the Kingdom.

The main objectives of JANDA, according to its written political programme, are to promote the democratisation process in Jordan, contribute to the construction of a productive economy, combating corruption and the support of the Palestinian people's struggle for nationhood.

The formation of the JANDA, known as the "coalition," was viewed by political observers as a major breakthrough in the history of the Jordanian political movement.

For except, for a short period in the fifties, when leftists and pan-Arab nationalists and all forces opposed to Jordanian alliances with the West, worked in unity, the Jordanian popular organised movement remained fragmented.

Between 1967-1971, the dominance of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) groups in the country, served — for a short period — as catalyst for the Jordanian left and the pan-Arab nationalists.

according to Jordanian political activists, to form a coalition which would not come across as just another extension of the PLO.

On the other hand, PLO officials conceded that in the early eighties, they were not ready to encourage any steps which could be interpreted as "an intervention in the internal Jordanian affairs."

But in 1989 and 1990, two major turning points took place which dramatically altered the political life in the country. In July 1988, His Majesty King Hussein relinquished the responsibility of the Israeli-occupied West Bank to the PLO. The historic step, initially complicated the situation because of the ambiguity behind the government's practical measures which accompanied disengagement, but it eventually opened the way for the revival of a coordinated and organised popular political movement.

In practical terms the Jordanian disengagement from the West Bank removed much of the mutual suspicions and perceived competition between Jordan and the PLO, according to political analysts. Furthermore, Palestinian groups immediately started considering a disengagement of a different level.

In July 1990 the Jordanian wing of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) transformed itself into a separate and independent Jordanian party. Although the emerging Jordan's People's Democratic Party (JPDP) still maintains some links with the DFLP, its declared programme gives priority to Jordan, without abandoning its support for the Palestinian nationalist liberation struggle.

coalition based on the common denominators among all trends.

In its programme JANDA, or the coalition, opposed the International Monetary Fund (IMF) restructuring programme of the Jordanian economy, and all American proposals for a settlement of the Israeli-Arab conflict which fall short of recognising the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and statehood.

At an early stage of the deliberations, prior to the elections, representatives of the Brotherhood, attended some of the meetings and were even expected to join the coalition. But reported differences over the PLO peace strategy, which calls for the establishment of an independent Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza Strip alongside Israel, prompted the Brotherhood to withdraw. A Brotherhood official had said then that his movement would not settle for anything less than a pledge to liberate all of Palestine.

Leftist officials, had then countered that the Brotherhood was using the issue as a pretext

Jordan have held several meetings with senior government officials.

The other trends in JANDA, including pan-Arab nationalists and independent personalities, are represented in the royal commission to draft the national charter, which aims at legalising political parties in Jordan.

Some analysts believe that the various trends had finally agreed to form a coalition party to unify their stand within the royal commission so as to resist any possible restrictions on political parties in Jordan.

The major activities of JANDA, however, picked up immediately after the eruption of the Gulf crisis. Although the parties involved differed over the evaluation of the Iraqi takeover of Kuwait, they soon shifted their attention to opposing and resisting the U.S.-led military intervention in the region.

Their first major activity was organising a mass rally in Mafraq near the Jordanian-Syrian borders few days after the arrival of American troops in Saudi Arabia. The rally attracted tens of thousands of

'Although many of the founding members of JANDA, had spent long years in prison for opposing Jordan's official policies, in the last year they have publicly declared commitment to the Jordanian constitution.'

But as many Jordanian and Palestinian political activists now concede, the dominance of the PLO groups did not help in laying the basis for a unified Jordanian popular movement which became very dependent on the Palestinian commando groups.

The government's crackdown on political parties in 1957 and the tragic 1970 military showdown between the Jordanian government and PLO forces, had shattered the Jordanian organised political movement in the country, Jordanian political activists feel.

In the seventies and the early eighties many leading political activists tried to revive the idea of forming a "national front," involving the leading leftist and nationalist trends in the country, but to no avail.

Many reasons are cited by Jordanian political activists for the failure of the attempts for reviving a strong organised popular movement and coalitions. By their mainly stress the prevalence of martial law — which remained in effect for 23 years — until it was suspended early this year, the strong security grip and surveillance of political activists as well as the fact that most Jordanian political parties have either been divided or weakened.

A major factor, according to political activists, which impeded the formation of a broad political coalition was the ambiguity of the Palestinian-Jordanian relationship and the frequent strain between the Jordanian and the PLO in the seventies and the eighties.

In the post 1970 period, except for the Jordanian Communist Party (JCP), the only existing organised movements in Jordan, were practically extensions of the Palestinian commando groups.

The differences between the government and the PLO and the prevailing mutual suspicions, made it extremely difficult,

The Jordanian wing of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine was more reluctant to announce its separation from its mother organisation but tried to rearrange its priorities to give Jordanian concerns more importance.

Although the formula of separation remains relatively unclear, according to officials from both groups, the apparent aim is to transform these groups into independent integral parts of the Jordanian organised political movement.

The most significant turning point, however, has been the democratisation process in the country which provided unprecedented freedom of movement and expression to all political groups.

Even though political parties have not been officially legalised in the Kingdom there has been a process of de facto legitimisation particularly after King Hussein lifted a ban on members of political groups who wanted to stand for parliament any elections last November, and later when their representatives were included in a royal commission to draft a national charter to regulate political, economic and social life in the country.

The democratisation process immediately prompted the leftist and nationalist groups to embark on talks to unite their ranks. Initial efforts, prior to the general elections, failed, resulting in leftist and nationalist candidates competing against each other.

Many Jordanian political analysts believe that the sweeping victory of the Muslim Brotherhood, which was the only legal political group in Jordan prior to the democratisation process, had forced the leftists and nationalists to reconsider their tactics and press for the creation of a coalition.

The efforts were only crowned with success last July when they agreed on a broad

'The success or failure of the pan-Arab conference, according to political analysis, is not only crucial to testing the unity of the Arab population movement in general but also to the role of JANDA as the coalition of secular and nationalist trends in Jordan.'

for not joining a coalition with the leftists and the nationalists.

Interestingly enough the final programme does not state an explicit endorsement of a two state solution. Instead it refers to the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and to establish their independent state on "all the Palestinian land." The rather ambiguous wording is believed to reflect internal opposition by some pan-Arab nationalist elements against the idea of a two-state solution.

Although many of the founding members of JANDA, had spent long years in prison for opposing Jordan's official policies, in the last year they have publicly declared commitment to the Jordanian constitution. Earlier this year the leadership of both the JCP and the JPDP were received by King Hussein while officials from the organisation of the PFLP in

people and although the Muslim Brotherhood not a co-sponsor, it took an active part in the huge demonstration.

Two weeks ago JANDA also sponsored another rally, held at the Royal Amphitheatre in downtown Amman, dedicated to the Palestinian Intifada and in solidarity with Iraq.

The major event sponsored by JANDA has been the pan-Arab conference, to be held today, which aims according to the movement's officials at uniting the popular Arab movement against the U.S.-led military intervention in the Gulf.

The success or failure of the pan-Arab conference, according to political analysis, is not only crucial to testing the unity of the Arab population movement in general but also to the role of JANDA as the coalition of secular and nationalist trends in Jordan.

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falling off. Other things have come along to get attention," said Anita Defrantz, an IOC member from the United States and a long-time campaigner against

Defrantz said the committee was working hard to get uniform anti-doping measures adopted by all sports and backing them up with stiffer penalties.

vs. Island team. Our soccer players — the laughing stock of Europe." Austria coach Josef Hickersberger, who recently signed a 3½-year contract exten-

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he bidding:

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Because North's king was in trumps, it was an excellent contract. Yet many players would cash their tricks in a haphazard way and go down.

Helen, as usual, tackled the hand with deadly accuracy. She took the ace of diamonds and drew trumps in two rounds. A diamond ruff was followed by a club to the ace and

to be followed by a club to the ace and an other diamond ruff. When East discarded a diamond on the king of clubs, declarer carefully cashed the ace of hearts, then ruffed her re-

maxing club on the board. The four of hearts was led and, when East covered with the five, Helen confidently inserted the six! West had already shown up with seven clubs,

three diamonds, a heart and two spades, so the deep finesse had to win.

51 Fl. Knox Item 58 Lode contents

Economists question Japan's complacency on oil supplies

TOKYO (R) — The Japanese government may be too complacent in its statement to the public about the Gulf crisis and its impact on Japan's oil supplies, private economists say.

Government officials have repeatedly said Japan will be able to weather the Gulf crisis because it has ample reserves and its dependence on oil has decreased since the oil shocks of the 1970s.

Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) officials, who draw up Japan's oil policies, say they do not foresee serious disruptions of shipments from the Gulf.

"Saudi Arabian export terminals are located away from Iraq and Kuwait. Even if a war breaks out, loading from Saudi Arabia may only be delayed and not totally stopped," a MITI official said.

Saudi Arabia is the only reliable producer with huge surplus capacity and exports from the kingdom are vital to fill the vacuum left by Iraq and Kuwait, oil industry sources said.

The world's second largest oil consumer, Japan relies for almost all its oil on imports, 70 per cent of which have been coming from the Middle East.

A war could cause a major disruption in shipments, especially if oil facilities in Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) were damaged, private economists said.

The Institute of Energy Economics, for example, estimates that a general war in the Gulf would send oil prices, now between \$25 and \$30 a barrel, to well above \$40.

"Government officials think there's no use worrying about it. Japan has no effective options when oil shipments are physically halted from the Middle East," said Tsutomu Toichi, chief economist at the institute.

"The government is avoiding debate on the worst case," said Toru Tachibana, chief economist at the Japanese Institute of Middle Eastern Economics, another private body.

The government wants to avoid alarming the public, but overly optimistic statements now could damage its credibility and reduce its ability to set economic policy if the Gulf crisis does escalate, Tachibana said.

MITI should impose energy conservation measures on both households and industry, he said.

The government has not announced a concrete conservation programme.

MITI officials said they were satisfied industries had already streamlined their operations and their plants were fuel-efficient. The ministry has been encouraging Japanese consumers to enjoy a more affluent lifestyle and is hesitant to reverse its course, the officials said.

MITI is hiding from the public that Japan's real problem with oil procurement at present is not crude oil but supplies of refined products, energy experts said.

The nation's refineries are running near full capacity, while imports of middle distillates — jet fuel, kerosene and gas oil — under long-term contracts with Saudi Arabia and the UAE are declining because those countries "are supplying cargoes to military forces in the Gulf," they said.

"The dilemma for Japan is that it can buy additional spot oil and product cargoes to fill the gap if it pays high premiums, but that will draw harsh criticism from fellow Asian nations that cannot afford those premium barrels," Toichi said.

Portugal sees little effect from higher oil prices

LISBON (Agencies) — The Portuguese government forecast Thursday that the oil price rise caused by the Gulf crisis would have only a marginal effect on the economy and would not stop growth.

Finance Minister Miguel Beza told a news conference the cabinet had adopted a four-point strategy to cope with the aftermath of Iraq's takeover of Kuwait.

It would maintain tight budgetary and monetary policies, pass on the effects of higher oil prices to the domestic economy and not allow these to create wage inflation.

This policy, together with good reserves, a high growth rate and employment rate, would enable Portugal to avoid the mistakes of past oil price shocks, he said.

Meanwhile, the government announced Thursday it is preparing to sell off the state electricity company and a leading paper pulp producer as part of a major privatisation programme.

Up coming privatisations include five more banks, five insurance companies, a second beer maker, and a leading cement manufacturer.

Israel approves austerity plan to absorb immigrants

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israel's cabinet Thursday unanimously adopted a major economic austerity plan geared to spur growth at a time when Israel is facing an influx of hundreds of thousands of Soviet immigrants.

The plan relies on tax increases to generate revenue to fund the absorption of the million Soviet newcomers expected to arrive within the decade.

Finance Minister Yitzhak Mordechai presented his plan aimed at turning Israel's socialist-style economic system into a more capitalist one during a marathon 10-hour cabinet meeting.

A known advocate for a free market economy, Mordechai said his plan intends to "inject enough flexibility so that the market and not the government will take upon itself the growth of the economy."

Israel radio said the government expected the plan to raise at least a billion shekels (\$500 million) over the next year but a key profit-making proposal to impose 16 per cent tax on both fruits and vegetables and tourism was not approved.

Instead, a special ministerial committee was appointed to discuss the proposal that would cancel tourist exemption from the 16 per cent value-added-tax at hotels and restaurants.

No figures were available on the expected revenue from this proposal but Israeli television said if the committee did not approve the tax it would have to provide an alternative money-making proposal.

The cabinet approved Mordechai's proposal to impose a 20 per cent tax on lottery winnings and earnings from pension and saving plans as well as the easing of restrictions on capital markets to encourage outside and domestic investment.

Tax increases including a 16 per cent on cigarettes and a 14 per cent tax on beer were also approved as means to bolster the government treasury.

Mordechai said his plan would develop the faltering economy. "What we are trying to do is remove taxes or burdens which are stopping growth and transfer them to things which do not affect growth," he said at a press conference.

The new measures will not go into effect until approved by the parliament plenum, where it is expected to meet opposition from left-wing parties.

One measure likely to meet stiff resistance in parliament is a proposal to modify minimum wage laws as an incentive to employers to create more jobs.

Employers would not have to pay immigrants the minimum wage, about \$475 a month, for their first half year of employment, under the new plan.

Ora Namir, a legislative for the left-of-centre Labour Party that runs the "Histadrut" labour union vowed she and her party would "launch a tremendous struggle," against this proposal.

Rafi Luzon, a leader of a protest movement born this summer when immigration set off a spiralling housing shortage also opposed the plan.

"This plan will be very hard for the lower classes... it will be tough to have to pay more for basics like fruits and vegetables and to earn less money," Luzon added, speaking on the radio.

Former Finance Minister Shimon Peres said the plan would not help the immigration problems.

"I don't see a plan for the absorption of 250,000 immigrants or a plan for stabilising the economy," said Peres, leader of the opposition Labour Party.

"The government made no decisions about its own budget, about its policy on salaries or war on inflation. I can't see this being carried out," he added on Israel television.

Already the nearly 90,000 Soviet immigrants who have arrived this year face severe housing and job shortages.

Officials estimate it will cost \$20 to \$30 billion to provide housing and jobs for the Soviets over the next two years.

Israel is also seeking additional money from Jewish fundraisers overseas and has requested a \$400 million loan guarantee from the United States.

U.S. Congress wants to fill oil reserves to one billion barrels

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. Senate and House of Representatives Thursday passed a bill to boost the U.S. emergency oil reserve to one billion barrels but the White House said it sees little need for the extra safety net despite the Gulf crisis.

The bill now goes to President George Bush, who must sign the measure before it becomes law.

U.S. Senate Energy Committee Chairman Bennett Johnston, a Democrat, said the bill authorises the increase in the U.S. strategic petroleum reserve from the current cap of 750 million barrels and allows the government to lease crude oil from producers to help fill the reserve.

The bill would also allow continued filling of the reserve through 1994. The current authority expires Saturday.

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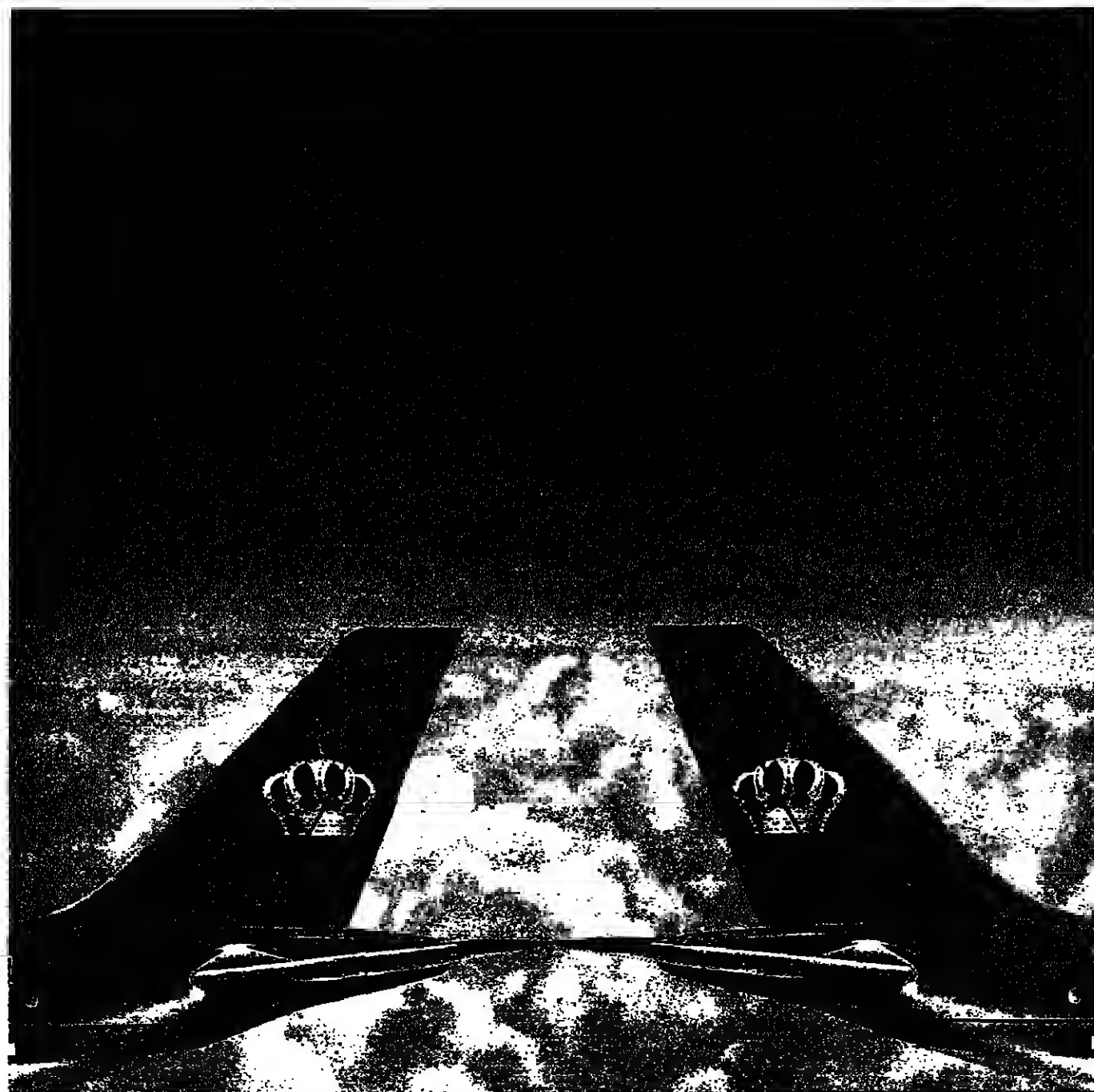
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De Klerk, Mandela hold new crisis talks

South African police, troops hunt train-massacre gunmen

JOHANNESBURG (R) — South African police and troops searched black hostels Friday for traces of gunmen who killed 26 train passengers — one of the worst incidents in weeks of black faction warfare.

More than 100 travellers were wounded, some leaping in panic through smashed windows as the rush-hour commuter train moved through an eastern Johannesburg suburb Thursday.

President F.W. de Klerk said fresh measures to curb Johannesburg's spiralling black township conflict would be announced next week.

The violence has spilled over into the "white" city with random hi-and-run attacks. Police put the township death toll since mid-August at 757 and human rights groups said it had passed 300.

The carnage stems from clashes between supporters of Nelson Mandela's African National Con-

gress (ANC) and the Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom Party of chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi.

In one of the most horrifying attacks, gangs of black youths shot or hacked to death at least 26 homeward-bound passengers as they screamed for help aboard their train.

Troops joined police in searching the industrial area and hostels along the line between Jeppe and Benrose stations for clues to the attackers. The platform at Benrose Friday was spattered with blood and commuters' belongings and needles discarded by medical crews.

De Klerk, in a midnight statement, did not disclose details of his government's plans to curb the violence.

He said: "There are forces which do not wish peaceful negotiations to succeed."

"Those responsible are greatly mistaken if they believe that the

government's search for a peaceful solution is a passport to lawlessness, unrest and murder."

ANC officials say white right-wing forces may be trying to undermine the peace process aimed at eventual black majority rule.

Mandela said an emergency meeting of the ANC's national committee would be held Tuesday.

The ANC has been flooded with demands for weapons by its supporters in the townships and some activists on the battle-scarred streets want the ANC's guerrilla army, spear of the nation, deployed to defend them.

Mandela has complained of government reticence in acting to restore order to the townships and has urged de Klerk to send in the army. But that course carries high political risks for both men in the search for a peaceful settlement.

Many township residents say white-led police and troops have sided with Inkatha, widely regarded as sympathetic to white governments, and say they fear wider involvement by state forces. Police strongly deny partiality.

A report in the influential Business Day newspaper Friday chronicled what it called troubling behaviour by police riot units in one township fracas.

Reporter Billy Paddock, who travelled in an armoured vehicle with a police patrol, said that during one incident, while police were firing tear gas at an unruly crowd, the warrant officer in charge yelled at his men: "Not tear gas. Shoot the bastards!" — and shotguns roared all round.

De Klerk and ANC leader Nelson Mandela met Friday for the second time in three days to discuss South Africa's black township wars.

Seoul opposition team to visit N. Korea

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — South Korea's largest opposition party may consider sending a delegation to Communist North Korea, the party's leader said Friday.

Kim Dae-jung, head of the opposition Party for Peace and Democracy, or PPD, said his party "would consider sending delegates to North Korea after the second round of prime ministers' talks in Pyongyang," scheduled for Oct. 16-19.

Such a visit would mark the first time a political delegation from one Korea has official vi-

sited another.

Kim was invited to visit Pyongyang when North Korean Prime Minister Yon Hyong Muk was in Seoul last week for talks with South Korean officials on national unification.

The Korean peninsula was divided into the Communist North and the capitalist South in 1945. The two Koreas do not recognise each other.

On domestic politics, the 65-year-old opposition leader said his party would decide by the end of this month whether to end a two-month boycott of the National Assembly, where the ruling

party has a majority.

All 70 PPD lawmakers plus eight members of a splinter opposition group and an independent legislator submitted their resignations in late July, protesting what they said was an attempt by the ruling party to retain power beyond 1993, when President Roh Tae-woo's term expires.

The resignations came after the ruling party-controlled parliament, in the absence of opposition members, passed several controversial laws, including one calling for tighter government control over broadcasting.

4 Albanians killed in Kosovo clash with police

BELGRADE (R) — Two ethnic Albanians have been killed in a gun battle with police in Yugoslavia's Kosovo province, bringing to four the death toll from clashes in less than 24 hours, Tanjug news agency said Friday.

The two opened fire Thursday night on police who stopped their car for a routine check on a road from Kosovo's capital, Pristina, to the town of Kline, it said.

One policeman was seriously wounded and the other returned fire, killing the two Albanians. Two others were killed in clashes with police near the town of Podujevo earlier Thursday.

The four fatalities were the first since some 30 people were killed in riots in January and February, police said.

Serbia, Yugoslavia's biggest republic, dissolved Kosovo's government and parliament in July after ethnic Albanian deputies to the regional assembly declared independence from Serbia.

More than 50 people have been killed since March 1989 in Kosovo, where ethnic Albanians, who number 1.7 million compared with the 200,000 Serbs and Montenegrins, have rioted against curbs on their autonomy.

Ethnic Albanians say the death

toll is higher.

Serbia has gradually stripped Kosovo of its self-rule and plans to adopt by October a new constitution which would further reduce the province's autonomy.

An ethnic Albanian emigre group in Australia Friday quoted sources in Kosovo as saying that over 30 people may have been killed in clashes with police Thursday.

Tanjung said an official statement on the latest shoot-out was expected later Friday.

Serbia has blamed unrest in the province on Albanian separatists, saying they wanted to annex it to neighbouring Albania. Ethnic Albanians have denied the charges.

But Ibrahim Rugova, leader of the Democratic Alliance of Kosovo, the main ethnic Albanian opposition group, said in a recent interview that he favoured a confederation of Kosovo and Albania.

Albanian deputies from the old assembly Thursday proclaimed a new constitution which would give the province the status of a republic. But Serbia quickly reacted by saying that it was invalid and legally groundless.

'Hubble error is due to upside-down measuring rod'

DANBURY, Connecticut (AP) — A 2-foot, million-dollar error wrecked the Hubble space telescope's focus, NASA investigators have said.

"It is, unfortunately, an error we now believe an operator is likely to have made," said Lew Allen, director of NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, who led the investigative team.

The team concluded that a 2-foot (two-thirds-metre) metal rod was accidentally put in upside-down.

The rod, made of the temperature-insensitive metal invar, was used in a measuring device called a reflective null corrector, which read the curve of the mirror's surface as it was polished. The incorrect placement led to a 1.3 millimetre spacing error that caused the mirror to be made into the wrong shape.

"It was a technical error made by people of goodwill who made a mistake," Allen said.

The team Thursday concluded two days of meetings at Hughes Danbury Optical System Inc., which manufactured the \$1.5-billion telescope's primary mirror in the late 1970s and early 1980s. At that time, Hughes Danbury was the optical division of Perkin-Elmer Corp.

The company conducted tests that revealed the error, but they were considered unreliable at the time and disregarded, Allen said.

The flaw, called a spherical aberration, has blurred the view of the orbiting observatory, which was supposed to take razor-sharp pictures of outer space.

It will be corrected during a previously scheduled 1993 space shuttle mission to replace the Hubble's most powerful instrument, the wide-field planetary camera, said Charles Pellerin, director of astrophysics for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

Pellerin said it would cost an extra \$15 million to correct the flaw. NASA originally estimated the new camera would cost up to \$65 million, he said.

Allen said Perkin-Elmer scientists and engineers didn't do tests that could have revealed the error during manufacturing because they were pressured to finish the project.

"With 20-20 hindsight, one would clearly say there was negligence... but you have to take into account the situation that actually existed," Allen said.

The investigative team, which visited Hughes Danbury three times, will issue a final report soon, Allen said.

NASA's Office of the Inspector General continues to investigate, Pellerin said.

The flaw, discovered shortly after Hubble was launched in April, is one of a series of problems, facing the space agency. NASA's shuttles were grounded because of fuel leaks and its Magellan spacecraft temporarily ceased communication with earth while orbiting Venus.

Because of the Hubble flaw, NASA withheld about \$3 million in so-called "performance fees" to Hughes Danbury, Pellerin said. Performance fees represent a company's profit after NASA has paid for labour costs.

New Stasi scandal shakes E. German cabinet

EAST BERLIN (R) — A new scandal over relations with the former Communist security police rocked the East German cabinet less than three weeks before the country disappears in a merger with West Germany.

A civil rights investigator Thursday accused Environment Minister Karl-Hermann Steinberg of being a long-time informer for the Stasi, the state security leviathan abolished last December.

Meanwhile, Interior Minister Peter-Michael Diestel — accused of obstructing a purge of former Stasi agents from government ministries — survived a late-night parliamentary no-confidence motion after chaotic, sometimes farcical debate.

The government said it was probing the allegations against Steinberg, 49, who denied working for the Stasi but said he had been obliged to report to it on his scientific research and missions abroad.

Reform activist Werner Fischer made the accusation against Steinberg and three other unidentified ministers to reporters as parliament debated the East-West German unification treaty.

"Steinberg was for years a freelance collaborator with the Ministry of State Security," Fischer said.

Until East Germany's first free elections in March, Fischer headed a citizens' committee that oversaw the breakup of the Stasi and safeguarded its files.

Prime Minister Lothar de Maiziere said he would discuss the allegations with Steinberg, a member of his Christian Democratic Party, before commenting.

Parliament rejected by 154 votes to 107 a motion accusing Diestel of incompetence and of blocking investigations into the hated state security apparatus.

Debate over Diestel's role stretched into the late evening as deputies quibbled over procedure, so confounding the parliament speaker that he had to consult the rule books and call several recesses.

When a right-wing party demanded that the session be held in secret, with press and public barred, angry spectators chanted "we are the people" — the motto of last year's democratic revolution. The motion was hastily withdrawn.

Diestel acknowledged that the man he appointed to supervise the Stasi's dissolution turned out to have been an undercover Stasi agent himself, together with 12 other senior interior ministry aides.

But Diestel said parliamentary investigators only gave him the facts last Friday — and all 13 had now been dismissed.

Probe urged into U.K. 'dirty tricks' affair

LONDON (R) — Left-wing opponents of British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher demanded the government order an inquiry into allegations of an intelligence service campaign to discredit top politicians during the 1970s.

The opposition Labour Party said an inquiry into the so-called "dirty tricks" affair was the only way to end years of speculation that members of the security services had meddled in politics and later covered up the episode to avoid a scandal.

The alleged campaign came to light when Colin Wallace, an army press officer, claimed he had been part of an operation codenamed Clockwork Orange to feed disinformation to the media.

He was sacked in 1975 for leaking a secret document to the media but claims the dismissal was really over his revelations.

Wallace Thursday won an unfair dismissal case against the Ministry of Defence, reviving the debate over the truth of his claims and renewing pressure for a public inquiry.

Labour defence spokesman Martin O'Neill urged the government to reveal what it knew of the affair.

"Only by properly explaining the circumstances... will you remove the suspicion that you are participating in a cover-up designed to avoid political embarrassment," he wrote in a letter to Defence Secretary Tom King.

Wallace said the smear tactics had been initially aimed at the Irish Republican Army (IRA), which is waging a violent campaign to end British rule in Northern Ireland. They were later applied to British political figures, many of them left-wingers.

Former British intelligence agent Peter Wright alleged in his controversial book Spycatcher that MI5 intelligence agents tried to destabilise Prime Minister Harold Wilson's Labour government by spreading disinformation.

Labour politician Merlyn Rees, a former Northern Ireland secretary who claims he was himself a victim of the campaign, also called for an investigation.

East Berlin (AP) — A towering Soviet soldier smashes a swastika with a giant sword. Marx stares at passing traffic. Lenin tugs on his lapel.

Germany is less than three weeks away from becoming a single bastion of Western capitalism, but much of the new nation will be filled with totems of the old East Germany.

While leaders argue over how to pay for unification and East Germans worry about their jobs, many towns are wondering what to do with all those old statues, streets, squares and schools dedicated to the stalwarts of socialism.

It is a problem far more complex than merely changing street signs and carting away scowling icons of stone and bronze.

In southern East Germany, Karl-Marx-Stadt wasted little time reclaiming its historical name, Chemnitz.

But it is taking much longer to decide what to do with the glowering bust of Marx that dwarfs passersby in the heart of town.

No community has taken a greater interest in this issue than East Berlin, the showcase of the former Communist government

African force evacuates 1,000 from Doe's mansion in Monrovia

MONROVIA, Liberia (AP) — West African troops evacuated about 1,000 people from the mansion of slain President Samuel Doe, but others refused to leave, saying they did not trust promises of safe conduct.

Tribal reprisal killings continued in the city Thursday, with witnesses reporting that fighters loyal to rival rebel leaders Prince Johnson and Charles Taylor were hunting down people of Doe's Krahn tribe and the Mandingo tribe, which has been accused of backing the slain president.

Also Thursday, Nigeria and Ghana were reportedly reexamining their leading role in the multinational West African Task Force in light of the violence it seems incapable of stopping.

About 1,000 people, mainly women and children, were evacuated from the presidential mansion Thursday, according to West African Task Force spokesman Maj. Chris Otuana. They were taken to the task force's headquarters.

Otuana said an unknown number of Doe's aides and soldiers remained in the building, including Brig.-General David Nimley, who was named acting president by Doe's supporters. Otuana said Nimley told him the men had no confidence in the force's assurances they would not be attacked.

NATO offers friendship to Warsaw Pact states

WARSAW (R) — NATO Secretary-General Manfred Woerner, on his first visit to Poland, Thursday held out a hand of friendship to the Warsaw Pact countries whose armies for decades confronted the Western alliance in Europe.

Visiting the Polish capital where the Warsaw Pact treaty was signed in 1955, Woerner called on East and West to strip their armies down to a strictly defensive capacity and start building a secure European and world order together.

He said the collapse of communism in the past 12 months had created an historic opportunity.

"Never, I repeat never, has Europe had such a palpable opportunity to break out of the infernal cycle of war and peace and create a durable order of peace and prosperity," he told Polish members of parliament and political leaders.

"We extend the hand of friendship to you. We wish to cooperate with you, to cooperate with your government, with your parliament, with your people," he said in a speech at the Sejm (parliament).

"The time of confrontation is over. The hostility and mistrust of the past must be buried. We need to work together. Only in this way can we build the common European home or the European confederation or the new European order," he added.

Poland names 3 new ministers

WARSAW (AP) — Parliament Friday approved three nominations to the cabinet sought by Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki, ending a political impasse within the non-Communist governing coalition.

Filled were the Agriculture and Telecommunications ministries, which had been vacant since July 6 when parliament refused to follow Mazowiecki's proposals for the posts.

Also appointed was the head of a new ministry that will oversee the privatisation of Poland's massive state industries.

The most controversial post was agriculture minister. After a compromise with the three main peasant parties representing farmers, Mazowiecki won approval for his second nominee: Deputy Janusz Bylinski of the Polish Peasants Party-Solidarity.

The original nominee, Artur Balazs of the same party, was rejected largely because of political rivalries within the peasant movement.

Parliament removed Telecommunications Minister Marek Kucharski of the Democratic Party and replaced him with Jerzy

Slesak of the same party. Mazowiecki had tried to remove Kucharski in July, but the Democratic Party opposed the removal without a firm commitment that he would be replaced by another Democrat.

Appointed to be the first minister of privatisation was economist Waldemar Kuczyński, who had been serving as chief of the prime minister's advisers. He will have the daunting task of transferring the 80 per cent of Polish enterprises now in state hands to the private sector, the largest such sell-off ever attempted.

On the other side is a lawn that stretches for more than 500 metres, the burial place for 5,000 Soviet soldiers. On each side are eight stone sarcophagi depicting feats of heroism.

At the end of the lawn is a mausoleum on which a 12-metre-high soldier stands. Broad-shouldered and handsome, the soldier smashes a swastika with a sword and clutches a child, creating an idealised image of a Soviet avenger slaying the Nazi oppressors and saving the innocent.

Many Germans want it shipped back to the Soviets.

"Marx is okay, but get rid of that thing," said Werner Tischer, 72, a native Berliner.

West Berlin also has monuments to its World War II occupiers, including a Soviet memorial and a street named after Karl Marx. Hetzel said it will be up to a future united Berlin government to decide what should remain or be modified.

An estimated 100 to 200 streets are being studied by the East Berlin Streets Committee, ranging from streets named after Salvador Allende, the former Marxist leader of Chile, to Konstantin Ziolkowski, a father of Soviet flight technology.

Guinea and Sierra Leone had also contributed soldiers.

The task force sailed into Monrovia on Aug. 24 with orders to enforce a ceasefire and install an interim government.

Controversy about the role of the force has grown since Sunday. On that day, according to task force commander Lt. Gen. Arnold Quainoo of Ghana, Doe and a large escort of bodyguards and aides paid an unscheduled visit to the force's Monrovia headquarters.

Quainoo said Doe came to ask why Quainoo had not paid him a courtesy call. Other reports said Doe went to complain about the lack of action taken by the force. Still other unconfirmed reports say Doe sought evacuation from Monrovia.

Johnson's men arrived shortly after Doe and clashes erupted, Quainoo said.

Seventy-eight people were killed, mostly Doe's bodyguards.

Quainoo said he and his officers tried verbally to persuade Johnson's men not to slaughter Doe and his entourage.

Quainoo said the West African troops "did not fire a single shot, even under the confusion and surprise from both sides," in line with the force's aim of remaining neutral.

4 killed in Soviet air crash

MOSCOW (AP) — Four people died Friday morning when an Aeroflot passenger jet en route from Volgograd to Sverdlovsk crashed while landing, the TASS News Agency reported.

In another incident, an Antonov-2 aircraft was forced to make an emergency landing in a swamp after an engine failure.

TASS said four people died and several passengers were injured when a YAK-2 jetliner crashed after an apparent engine failure as it approached Koltsovo Airport at Sverdlovsk, 1,500 kilometres east of Moscow.

Boris Yeltsin, president of the Russian Federation, informed the republic's Supreme Soviet parliament of the accident and said that 124 people were aboard the three-engine aircraft when it crashed one and a half minutes away from touchdown at the airport in the Ural Mountains.

Yeltsin said an investigative commission had been dispatched to the crash site.

TASS said several people were injured in the crash and were being treated in Sverdlovsk hospitals.

In the second incident, TASS said the crew of the Antonov-2 aircraft was on an aerial photography mission in the Volgograd region, 320 kilometres northeast of Moscow, when engine failure forced it to land in a swamp.

Column 8

Hong Kong police bag stolen car

HONG KONG (R) — Hong Kong's resourceful smugglers have sunk to new depths by wrapping a stolen Mercedes Benz in a rubber bag in what police think was an attempt to tow it to China. The rubber-wrapped saloon was found half-submerged on a lonely quay on Thursday, two days after being reported stolen. Smuggling stolen luxury cars out of affluent Hong Kong to neighbouring China is big business and police suspect the thieves planned to tow the car semi-submerged behind a boat. Smugglers often put smaller contraband such as televisions and video recorders in sealed boxes suspended beneath fishing boats. The boxes are quickly cut free if the boats are stopped by police launches. Police reckon 20 per cent of cars stolen in Hong Kong end up in China. Last year 4,401 cars were taken by thieves.

Woman marries elephant keeper after ride

BANGKOK (AP) — A two-hour ride on the back of an elephant has changed the life of a Swiss tourist. That night she married the elephant keeper, official radio reported. Radio Thailand said Anouk Tschabold, 22, was smitten with the elephant keeper, or mahout, during a recent jungle ride in the northern province of Chiang Rai. Ms. Tschabold was initially impressed by the politeness of Su-Rang Ner-Pae, also 22. Love blossomed as the ride progressed against a backdrop of mountains, the radio said. That night they were married in a traditional Karen ceremony. Her husband is a member of this ethnic minority famed for its ability to catch, train and ride elephants. The broadcast said the Swiss bride from Lausanne planned to give up her job in the computer field and live in Thailand.

'Mozart probably died of kidney failure'

LONDON (AP) — Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart probably died of chronic pneumonia brought on by kidney disease, according to a report published in the Journal of the Royal Society of Medicine. Like other researchers who have examined Mozart's final days, Dr. Mary Wheater said she found no evidence the musical genius was poisoned by a jealous Antonio Salieri. "The insidious onset of pallor, headaches, blackouts, depression, preoccupation with death and delusions of poisoning, as well as abdominal pain, vomiting, diarrhoea and weight loss could all be attributed to renal disease resulting in hypertension and worsening uraemia during 1790-91," she wrote in the September issue of the journal. If kidney dialysis and other modern treatments had been available, "I suspect he probably would have lived a good deal longer than he did," Ms. Wheater said. Mozart died in Vienna, Austria, on Dec. 5, 1791, when he was 35 years old. The notion that Mozart was poisoned arose immediately. The Berlin newspaper Musikalisches Wochenblatt said in its report that "because his body swelled up after death, people even thought he had been poisoned." Peter Shaffer's play Amadeus, and the subsequent film, popularised the notion that the court composer Antonio Salieri was the killer. In his old age, Salieri at times confessed to poisoning Mozart — and at other times vehemently denied it. Mozart's symptoms, Ms. Wheater wrote, are inconsistent with poisoning by mercury, lead or arsenic. "The medical evidence lends no support to the idea that he was poisoned," she wrote.

Cereals gain favour on French breakfast tables

WASHINGTON (AP) — Buttery croissants are traditional at breakfast in France, but a U.S. Agriculture Department report says corn flakes and other cereals are gaining favour. Sales of breakfast cereals in France rose 25 per cent in value last year, following a growth of more than 80 per cent from 1985 to 1988. The report in the October issue of Agexporter magazine said 1989 imports of breakfast cereals into France were valued at \$5.9 million and totalled 30,496 metric tons, or 92 per cent of total sales.